

MEMORIAL

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ILLINOIS,

Praying that an appropriation of land be made, to enable that State to improve the navigation of certain rivers therein.

FEBRUARY 16, 1829.—Read, ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

To the Congress of the United States:

The people of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, respectfully represent to your honorable body, that the Kaskaskia river is susceptible of being made navigable, and at no great expense, from the Seat of Government of this State, to its confluence with the Mississippi, a distance of about three hundred and fifty miles by water. That this river passes through a section of country of remarkable evenness of surface, and passes through, or forms the boundaries of seven counties of this State, to wit: Randolph, Monroe, St. Clair, Washington, Clinton, Fayette, and Shelby. That the counties of Montgomery, Bond, Marion, Jefferson, and Perry, are situate in its immediate vicinity, and would be greatly benefited by the improvement of the navigation of said river. That by removing the obstructions, the river would be navigable for six months in each year; and that the channel at the Ripples in said river, can be deepened at no great expense, and that the material obstructions to its navigation is caused by snags and drift wood.

It is further represented to your Honorable Body, that the unassisted means of the State are not adequate, at this time, to improve this river, and make it permanently navigable. To show the importance of this work, your memorialists state, that the counties above enumerated, situate upon or in the vicinity of this river, contains a large population, and are increasing more rapidly than at any former period of our State government. That this population is at the distance of twenty-five to eighty miles from the Mississippi. That the exchangeable surplus productions of this section of country, for the want of a navigable river upon which to convey them to market, are taxed with a heavy land carriage, as well as all importations, and which diminishes the value of the one, and enhances the price of the other. Your memorialists further represent, that the reasons and principles of this memorial are also applicable to the Sangamon, Macoupin, and Big Muddy rivers, in this State, all of which pass through fertile sections of country, and with adequate means could be made permanently navigable for many months in each year. Your memorialists, therefore, respectfully solicit that an act of Congress may be passed, granting to this State such quantity of land as Con-

gress shall deem just, to be disposed of by the Legislature of the State, and to be applied exclusively to the improvement of the navigation of said rivers. The enlightened policy heretofore pursued by Congress, and the liberal precedents made in aid of the new States to construct works of internal improvement, induces your memorialists to hope that this reasonable application will be successful.

THOMAS MATHER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WILLIAM KENNEY,
Speaker of the Senate.

Attest:

WM. LEE D. EWING, *Clerk H. R.*

E. J. WEST, *Sec. Senate.*